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HYMN FOR HELP.

JULIA ANNA WOLCOTT.

O God, in thy strength, on our weakness look down!
 Each holy endeavor with victory crown!
 Each struggle for freedom from doubt and from sin,
 From the foes that are lurking without and within!

Give power to the arm that would shelter the weak,
 And language to lips that fain comfort would speak!
 O, strengthen the hand that would raise the oppressed,
 And give speed to the feet that would do thy behest!

Of each pure aspiration, each lofty desire,
 O, grant Thou fulfilment, and draw us up higher!
 Our efforts, unaided, can nothing avail;
 Then give us thy help, or we faint and we fail!

—*Christian Register.*

THE REAL QUESTION AS TO BEHRING SEA.

BELVA A. LOCKWOOD.

Is the Behring Sea, formerly known as the Gulf of Kamtschatka, such a sea, gulf, or bay as to be capable of entire defence from the coast of Alaska; or from the chain of seal islands that stretch nearly across to the Asiatic coast? Whether these islands are inhabited or not does not matter, if they belong to the United States, and the distance across is such that it can be protected. Statute 9 of George II. prohibited foreign goods to be transhipped within four leagues of the coast without the payment of dues, and the act of Congress of March 2, 1799, contains the same prohibition. Johnson says of Behring Sea that it is the northern portion of the Pacific Ocean, and that Behring Straits, which connects it with the Arctic Ocean, is forty-five miles wide at the narrowest point, but he does not give us the distance of the seal islands at its mouth from the shore, which appears to be about five hundred miles.

The Roman States claimed the Mediterranean Sea when they controlled the Straits of Gibraltar; and England has always claimed the control and sovereignty of the seas that surround her empire, but she has never monopolized the herring fishery on her coast, but has enjoyed it in common with other nations. It is a well known principle of international law, and is laid down in Vattel, section 126.

"No nation has a right to take possession of the open sea, or claim the sole use of it, to the exclusion of other nations. The right of navigating and fishing in the open sea being a right common to all men. The nation that attempts to exclude another from that advantage does her an injury, and furnished her with sufficient grounds for commencing hostilities. * * *

"Sec. 127. As the rights of navigation and of fishing, and other rights which may be exercised on the sea, belong to the class of those rights of mere ability, which are imprescriptible, they cannot be lost for want of use." * * *

This whole matter, therefore, which now seems to threaten the peace of two of the most powerful nations of the earth, resolves itself into questions of international law and of fact. Great Britain could not have ceded to Russia, nor Russia to the United States, rights which they did not possess, but which belong in common to all nations. An arbitration court, with the facts and arguments on both sides before them, could readily settle the difficulty, while a war would settle nothing.

An international arbitration court, or a high court of nations, in the present advanced state of civilization, has become a necessity, which the recent Pan-American treaty will intensify. It should be so organized and constituted that a session could be promptly called whenever any international trouble presents itself, and those troubles in the nature of things, will be in the future, as they have been in the past, of perpetual recurrence.

ANGLO-AMERICAN TREATY OF ARBITRATION.

The following petition to Parliament in favor of a Treaty of Arbitration between Great Britain and the United States of America is being circulated in England.

TO THE HONORABLE THE COMMONS OF ENGLAND IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

Your humble Petitioners, citizens of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, representing all classes of the community, have learned with profound satisfaction that the Congress of the United States of America has adopted Resolutions whereby the President of the Republic is requested to invite other States to enter into negotiations for the reference to Arbitration of all disputes which cannot be adjusted by diplomatic agency.

Your Petitioners are further informed that the aforesaid Resolution is interpreted as meaning that the President is thereby requested to enter into Permanent Treaties with Foreign States, under which all future differences shall be settled by Arbitration, and that such Treaties shall be concluded—not with reference to any particular dispute, or only when it arises—but beforehand, and for all subsequent cases.

In these circumstances, your Petitioners earnestly hope that the British nation may be enabled to derive the great and permanent advantage thus provided of entering into an agreement which would forever preclude the possibility of war with a great sister nation.

Similar Treaties, your Petitioners would observe, would probably follow; thus rendering reductions in military and naval expenditure entirely practicable.

Your Petitioners would further observe that an Address signed by several well-known citizens of France in favor of such a Treaty between that country and the United States has been forwarded, through the American Minister in Paris, to the Secretary of State at Washington; and that the latter has forwarded it to the Committee of Foreign Relations of the Senate for its consideration.

In view of the above facts, your humble Petitioners earnestly pray that your Honorable House may agree upon an *Address to Her Majesty the Queen*, praying that such negotiations may be entered into with the President of the United States as may lead to the conclusion of a permanent Treaty of Arbitration between that nation and Great Britain, so that no armed conflict between them may at any future time arise.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, etc.

EPITAPH

Inscribed on the grave of a converted soldier.

When I was young in wars I shed my blood,
 Both for my King, and for my country's good.
 In later years my care was chief to be
 Soldier to Him who shed his blood for me.